

6 die in Chittagong house collapse

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 4: Six people including a child died in house collapse and over two thousand people were rendered homeless by the rain-fed flash flood that overflowed the Matamuhuri and Sanghu rivers running down the hills through the district.

All Hossain (40) and his wife (40) in Rangunia upazila, Farida Begum (35) and her six-month-old baby in Satkania upazila died when their mud houses collapsed due to heavy rain. Two other people who died also in house collapsing in Satkania upazila had not yet been identified, district administration sources said.

Nine out of 14 upazilas in the district are in the grip of flash flood following three days' heavy rain and downhill roll of waters from upper areas. Rajuan, Hathazari, Phatikchhari, Rangunia, Fata, Lohagara, Chandanish, Satkania, and Boalkhal are the worst affected upazilas.

Roara, Barma and Satbaria villages under Chandanish upazila have been washed away leaving over thousands of people shelterless.

Over five lakh people have been affected and transplanted aman crop on vast tract of land have gone under water.

About 70 per cent areas in Satkania, Chandanish, Lohagara, Rajuan, Rangunia, Phatikchhari upazilas have gone under waters overflowing the Matamuhuri river and Shankar and Dhalu canals. Road communication between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar remained snapped by water flowing over the road at Satkania point.

Several shelter centres were opened in the affected upazilas where the displaced people were being given cooked food, officials said. 600 maunds of rice have also been allotted as emergency supplies.

The Deputy Commissioner and other officials visited affected areas of Hathazari, Rangunia and Phatikchhari Saturday.

The rainfall in Chittagong in the last two days was recorded at 106 mm.

Foreign Minister scoffs at Indian press reports

Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman Saturday scoffed at Indian press reports that Bangladesh extremists were out to kill Indian opposition leader L. K. Advani and urged all quarters to refrain from all acts that would affect the friendly ties between the two countries, reports BSS.

Making a statement in the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament), he said reports in a section of the Indian press to this effect were baseless and without any foundation.

The newly-elected democratic government of Bangladesh does not believe in politics of killings, be it at home or abroad, the Foreign Minister declared in the House.

He said opposition member Suranjit Sengupta had drawn his attention to these news items which he himself had seen in two national dailies of India - The Statesmen and The Times of India.

The Foreign Minister deplored such reports in the Indian press and said the BNP government, since coming to power under Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, had been making efforts to build good neighbourliness with India.

He said there was no existence of any organisation called "Islamic Students Federation" in Bangladesh.

EC to announce schedule for by-elections: Badruddoza

The Election Commission is expected to announce a schedule for the by-elections to 11 vacant seats of the Jatiya Sangsad, Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury informed the Jatiya Sangsad Saturday, reports BSS.

Prof Chowdhury, who is in charge of the Election Secretariat in the parliament, said the Election Commission informed him by-elections to the Madaripur-1 and 10 other constituencies would not be delayed indefinitely.

Elections to the 10 seats were postponed due to the catastrophic cyclone of April 29. This decision of the Election Commission was unanimously supported by the Jatiya Sangsad, he added.

Conspiracies on to malign me, says Hasina

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina Saturday alleged that conspiracies were being hatched to malign her and her party on the crucial Constitution Amendment Bill for switchover to parliamentary form.

Talking to UNB at her official residence in Dhaka Saturday night Sheikh Hasina further blamed that conspiracies were on to withdraw the Constitution Amendment Bill. "But any such conspiracy will be resisted by the people and our party."

Asked about allegations made by the Prime Minister that some MPs were obstructing the passage of the bill, as reported in the press, Hasina posed a counter question: How can one blame MPs for obstructing a bill on which discussion was yet to be completed?

On constitutional compulsion of passing the bill by October 10, the Awami League chief said since we do not believe in presidential system, it is of no consequence to us.

Asked if Awami League sets repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance as a pre-condition for the passage of the Constitution Amendment Bill, Hasina replied in the negative.

She, however, said repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance is a must to ensure true democratic dispensation, justice, human rights and rule of law in the country.

30 DU teachers for passage of bills without terms

Thirty teachers of Dhaka University urged the Members of Parliament to pass the 11th and the 12th Constitution Amendment Bills without imposing any condition, reports BSS.

The teachers, in a joint statement, said these two bills have been accepted unanimously by the Select Committee, comprising members of different parties. The main inspiration of the mass upsurge of '90 and the hopes and aspirations of the people had been reflected in these two bills.

Dr Anwarullah Chowdhury, Dean, Social Science Faculty, Dr S M A Faiz, Dean, Biological Science Faculty, Dr M Arshadul Bari, Dean, Law Faculty, Dr Abul Kalam of the Department of International Relations, Dr Shahidul Ahmed of the Department of Management signed the statement.

Passage of bills

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They however said that the Awami League wanted an assurance that the Indemnity (repeal) Bill, which was not tailored to create any obstacle to the passage of the Constitution amendment bill would be introduced in the House.

Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed talking to The Daily Star said that the constitution amendment bill would be passed in the House on the basis of the Joint Declaration of the three alliances and the Awami League did not want to go for any package deal with the BNP to vote for the passage of the Constitution amendment bill by tagging it to the Indemnity Ordinance of 1975.

CPB leader Saifuddin Ahmed Manik talking to The Daily Star said that the CPB would vote for the bill without any hesitation. He said that the bill was the result of the nine-year bloody struggle of the people of this country.

Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party said that the Select Committee worked as a liaison committee between the Awami League and the BNP leaders to iron out their differences. He said that the bill should be passed unanimously.

JSD Leader Shahjan Siraj said that the Select Committee was unanimous in placing the bill before the House. He said that the bill should be passed without any hesitation to put parliamentary democracy on a firm footing.

Jamaat leader Matur Rahman Nizami said that the Jamaat would do its best to carry forward the bill placed in parliament on the basis of the consensus in the Select Committee.

It is learnt that JP leader Monirul Haque yesterday talked to the Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury on the passage of the bill. He put forth a condition that detained JP leaders be brought to the House on parole so that they could vote for the bill.



Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina called on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at his official residence on Saturday. — PID photo

Passage of 12th Amendment Bill

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schedule for holding the consequential referendum and for that purpose all parties in the Sangsad must cooperate for smooth passage of the bill for reverting to the parliamentary form which has now become a universal demand of the people.

Justice Shahabuddin assured the Leader of the Opposition of using his good offices to achieve this national goal, failing which, he said, the country would fall into a great constitutional crisis.

Awami League General Secretary Mrs Sajeda Chowdhury and party members Abdul Momen and Mofizur Rahman were present during the meeting.

A press release issued by the Awami League said during the discussion with the Acting President Sheikh Hasina apprised Justice Shahabuddin of few anti-democratic and anti-sovereignty provisions in the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill.

Referring to the Joint Declaration of the three alliances during the anti-autocracy movement, she said after such a declaration, the question for referendum for constitutional amendment was irrelevant.

About the defection of the Members of Parliament the Awami League leader said there were adequate provisions for protection in this regard in the 1972 Constitution. It is thus not necessary for im-

posing further restrictions in this connection, she said.

Regarding the reserved seats in the cabinet, Sheikh Hasina said, the Constitution Amendment Bill of the Awami League contained that the non-parliament members in the cabinet would have to be elected through polls within six months of their appointment.

About presidential election, the Awami League leader said elections should always be held through secret ballot. Otherwise the sanctity of elections are undermined, she added.

The Awami League chief requested the Acting President to continue the discussion for some more days to provide opportunities for the MPs so that they could express their views on an important issue like Constitution Amendment Bill.

About the Indemnity Repeal Bill submitted by the Awami League to the Sangsad, Sheikh Hasina said though about one month has passed since the Bill was submitted to the Sangsad Secretariat, the bill has not yet been placed in the House for discussion.

The Awami League leader said the Indemnity Bill should immediately be introduced in the House for discussion for the very objective of "establishing rule of law and full fledged democracy in the country."

About the resignation of the Acting President, the Leader of

the Opposition said he (Acting President) could not resign till his successor is elected as per the constitutional provision.

DU won't reopen before commitment

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But competition of political parties for getting supremacy on the campus is negating all our efforts, he regretted.

UNB adds: Some 107 students of the Dhaka University who stayed back in the halls defying the authority's directive vacated their respective dormitories Saturday following an understanding with the Vice Chancellor on a number of points.

The VC and the students reached a consensus at a meeting this afternoon that all student organisations would pledge not to raise any protest against police action to curb campus violence, agreeing to give a free hand to police in this regard.

Police authorities, they said, would be responsible for any untoward incidents or killing on the campus but would not harass innocent students. Police should play more effective and responsible role in eliminating terrorism from the campus.

The two sides agreed that all political parties must commit they will expel armed hoodlums and miscreants from their respective student bodies.

Different student groups Saturday staged demonstration in the city demanding immediate reopening of all educational institutions, including the Dhaka University.

They also urged the government to take necessary steps for eliminating terrorism from campuses.

Chhatra Motry, the student wing of United Communist League (UCL), submitted a memorandum to the Education Ministry demanding reopening of all closed institutions, arrest of all terrorists and withdrawal of "false" cases against 60 student leaders of the Rajshahi University.

The memorandum was submitted by a delegation led by Chhatra Motry General Secretary Ragib Ahsan Munna and Organising Secretary Ataur Rahman Ata.

BSD (Khalequzzaman)-backed Samajtantrik Chhatra Front also submitted memorandum to the DU Vice-Chancellor and the Home Ministry demanding immediate action against the trouble makers in the campus.

A delegation led by its President Belal Chowdhury and Organising Secretary Naimuddin submitted the memorandum to the Home Ministry which also demanded of the government to arrest the killers of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon and free the campus from arms and violence.

Earlier, both the organisations brought out separate processions in the city chanting slogans in support of their demands.

Bill to institutionalise democracy

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Suranjit Sengupta said that it was a sacred duty of the parliament to pass the Bill placed in the House for a transition to parliamentary democracy.

Termining the current Jatiya Sangsad a different one he said that parliament should be made sovereign as per the November 19 declaration of the three alliances.

He however raised questions on different points in the Amendment Bills, which retained the protective clauses for holding referendums on the changing of fundamental issues, strict provisions that plugged floor-crossing and provisions for induction of non-MPs in the cabinet.

A H Chowdhury of the Awami League taking part in the discussion said that a transition to the parliamentary form was a historical decision of this parliament.

He however said that the beauty of the Bill would be marred if the impurity in the Constitution was not removed.

Shahjahan Chowdhury of Jamaat-e-Islami said that the House should pass the Bill unanimously.

He further said that it was proved in the last parliamentary election that elections could be free and fair only under a caretaker government.

He said that the bill notified by Jamaat leader Matur Rahman Nizami for holding elections under a caretaker government should be brought to the House by the next private members' day.

The discussion was also participated by Sharfuddin Khasru of the JP, Shakhawat Hossain of Jamaat, Mozahar Hossain of the CPB, Obaidul Haque of the Islami Oikya Jote and Azizur Rahman of the Awami League.

Political crisis

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Former President of the Supreme Court Lawyers' Association Advocate Shamsul Haq Chowdhury said that everybody should rise against petty party interests to strengthen the democratic system.

He said that a national consensus on basic national issues was necessary.

Justice Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya said that the establishment of true democracy was possible only by restoring the 1972 Constitution.

Former Planning Adviser to the Acting President Professor Rehman Sobhan, Poet Shamsur Rahman and Awami League president member Abdul Mannan spoke on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal Saturday said that the non-passage of Constitution 12th Amendment Bill would throw the nation into a constitutional crisis and pave the way for autocratic rule.

A meeting of the party central committee warned that the opponents of the Bill would have to shoulder all the consequences if a crisis emerged.

Chaired by the acting First Secretary Nirmal Sen, the meeting was also addressed by A B M Faruk, Amrur Islam, Khurshid Alam and Siddiqur Rahman.

A resolution adopted in the meeting expressed surprise and concern over the reported protest against the Constitution Amendment Bill placed in the parliament following a unanimous decision by the Select Committee, comprised of representatives from both the Treasury and the Opposition benches.

AL contradiction

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ment containing some undemocratic provisions side by side with the Awami League for parliamentary democracy.

The press release further said proposals such as inclusion of non-MPs in the Council of Ministers, complications regarding election of the President and system of referendum created by Martial Law regulations in violation of the sovereignty of the Jatiya Sangsad are repugnant to the principles of parliamentary democracy.

The press release said the Awami League was committed to the nation to change these provisions in the interest of establishing rule of the people.

Awami League did not believe that parliamentary democracy can be fruitful by keeping those provisions and "placing the murderers above law."

The party said retention of these provisions might lead to "creation of a parliamentary autocracy instead of Presidential autocracy."

The Awami League, it was stated, was firmly committed to implement fully the guidelines of the three alliances.

Awami League has therefore tabled two separate bills for independence of judiciary and repeal of the indemnity ordinance of 1975 with a view to completing elimination of the politics of murder, coup, conspiracy and establishment of the rule of law.

The Awami League press release said that the party will not therefore tolerate any attempt or initiative to withdraw the Constitution amendment bills for parliamentary democracy on any pretext.

BSS creeded last night a news item about the speech of Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad, Sheikh Hasina, based on a spot coverage by its (BSS) Staff Reporter on the occasion of a reception accorded to her at the WAPDA auditorium in Dhaka.

Accountability

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lems.

The Prime Minister observed that the students were being utilised for gaining self and political interests. These quarters do not want stability in the country, she said.

The Prime Minister said the government servants were not allowed to work during the last nine years. Corruption had crept into every level of our society, she added.

"Ours is a peoples' government and we are prepared to do everything aimed at the betterment of the people," she added.

Begum Zia also called for speedy disposal of cases in the courts so that the people did not suffer unnecessarily. She also called for improving the condition in the jails. She asked the administration to visit the jail every month to see their condition.

Referring to the demand for setting up of metropolitan police for Rajshahi municipality, the Prime Minister said her government would look into the matter.

Begum Khaleda Zia also met the BNP leaders, workers and student leaders at the Rajshahi Circuit House. She urged them to contribute their mite in the nation building activities and strengthening the democracy.

CPB

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to take a positive stand regarding the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill in the interest of establishing democracy in the country.

It said that the passage of the 12th Amendment Bill for transition to parliamentary form of government before August 10 was necessary for averting a constitutional crisis.

The CPB secretariat said that removal of legal obstacles to the trial of Bangabandhu's killers was also necessary in the interest of democracy. It hoped that the ruling party would respond positively in this regard.

The Midnight File

4 UN workers kidnapped in Peshawar

PESHAWAR, Aug 3: Four UN employees have been kidnapped by tribesmen living in a lawless region on the border with Afghanistan. John Stevens, a New Zealander working for the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and three Afghans who also worked for the United Nations, were abducted late Thursday on the outskirts of Peshawar, said Ataullah Khan, a government official, reports AP.

Atlantis deploys satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Aug 3: A 120 million dollar communications satellite was deployed from the US shuttle Atlantis on Friday as it cruised above the Pacific Ocean on the first day of a nine-day space mission. The tracking and data relay satellite, used by NASA to maintain communications between ground controllers and spacecraft, was jettisoned from the shuttle's payload bay by small explosive charges and sent drifting away into space, reports Reuter.

Communists kill 8 in India

NEW DELHI, Aug 3: Communist guerillas ambushed a patrol jeep and killed eight policemen in southern India on Saturday. The guerillas, belonging to the People's War Group — a militant communist organisation of peasants — blew up the jeep with explosives in Nizamabad district in Andhra Pradesh state, reports AP.

Uproar in House

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In reply Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House, quoted from some newspaper reports stating that Sheikh Hasina vowed to resist the passage of the 12th Constitution Amendment Bill. This was not expected, he said.

He said that the Select Committee on Constitution Amendment Bills had submitted a unanimous report. The government had the right to accuse the Leader of the Opposition of giving statement against the unanimous report to which her party was also a signatory. It was a violation of the privilege of the Select Committee, he said.

Prof B Chowdhury said that the entire people of Bangladesh were behind the bills as they were presented before the House in modified forms. Reminding the opposition that the bills have to be passed within a time frame, he called for ensuring smooth passage of the bills with a view to fulfilling 'our pledge to the nation'. Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz said that the points now being raised about the bills were all discussed in the Select Committee which had a total of 36 meetings. He said that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who himself was a member of the Select Committee had taken time on several occasions to discuss matters relating to the bills with his party before giving his opinion. Finally the unanimous report was signed.

He said according to the constitution, the people are sovereign. Then 'why should we feel shy to go to the people' the Law Minister said defending the provision for holding of referendum. Technocrat ministers were there also in countries like Australia, he said.

Taking the flood on a point of order Shahjahan Siraj of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal sought to know why these discussions were being allowed violating the rules of procedure of the House. On Thursday too, there were several hours of discussion disrupting normal business of the House, he said.

The JSD leader said that those political parties which had representatives in the select committee had no right to differ from its report which was adopted unanimously. Only those parties which were not represented in that committee could raise objections to it. He requested the Speakers to resume discussion on the bills and put those to vote. It would be up to the parties to vote in favour of the bills or against those. The House has to be run in keeping with the rules of procedure, he said.

At this, more than a dozen Awami League members stood up and protested against the statement made by Shahjahan Siraj. Tofayel Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim and Suranjit Sengupta sought to speak in reply. Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas said he could not allow debate on the question. Shahjahan Siraj had only spoken on a point of order, he said.

Almost all AL MPs rose from their seats and shouted at the Speaker who tried to give the floor to Shahjahan Chowdhury of Jamaat to start discussion on the 12th Amendment Bill. As the House continued to be noisy, the Speaker adjourned the House for Asr recess.

After the Asr break, Tofayel Ahmed of AL said some MPs with his party before giving his opinion. Finally the unanimous report was signed.

Lankan troops

COLOMBO, Aug 3: Government troops on Saturday broke a 25-day Tamil Tiger rebel siege and entered the strategically located Elephant Pass army camp, military officials said.

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh

8, DIT Avenue, Dhaka

SUB: DIVIDENDS ON ICB MUTUAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR-1990-91 & BOOK CLOSURE.

The Board of Directors of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh in its meeting held on 31st July, 1991 approved dividends on ICB Mutual Funds for the year ending 30 June, 1991 as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of Fund	Rate of Dividend per Certificate of Tk. 100 each
1.	First ICB Mutual Fund	Tk. 35.00
2.	Second ICB Mutual Fund	Tk. 22.00
3.	Third ICB Mutual Fund	Tk. 19.00
4.	Fourth ICB Mutual Fund	Tk. 17.00
5.	Fifth ICB Mutual Fund	Tk. 10.00
6.	Sixth ICB Mutual Fund	Tk. 6.00

Dividends would be paid to the certificate holders whose names would appear in the Register of Certificate holders as on 21 August 1991.

The Transfer books of all Mutual Funds will remain closed from 22nd August to 31st August, 1991 (both days inclusive).

By order of the Board
Md. Abdur Rahman Khan
Secretary